

# Northern Territory submission – Overview of the final draft justice assessment paper

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The *Overview of the final draft justice assessment paper* (“final draft”) provides the Commonwealth Grants Commission’s (“Commission”) position on justice methods. The substantive views in the final draft are generally similar to the earlier *2025 Methodology Review: justice draft position paper*.

In summary, the Territory supports the final draft position and does not support further itemised changes.

While the Territory does not agree with each individual position formed by the Commission, it is recognised that the Commission’s role is to make decisions which balance competing objectives and jurisdictional views, and at times requires judgement. The Territory considers the Commission’s final draft position is, as a whole, well-reasoned and supported by data.

In its earlier consultation paper, the Territory reserved its final position subject to 2023-24 data. The Territory confirms that as the final draft paper indicates no emergent data issues or trends of concern, further submissions are not required and the Territory’s views remain as per the initial consultation.

The Territory considers that at this stage in the review cycle there is value in stable and predictable methods. There is merit in not making further changes after the final draft paper as states will not have, or have highly limited, opportunity to consider or consult on those changes. In particular, there is no substantive merit in reconsidering matters that are the same or similar to those already subject of prior consultation, such as discounting, choice of loadings or alternative regression specifications.

It is pragmatic to finalise the justice method and on this basis the final draft position is supported in full.